January 31, 2009

Mr. Thomas S. Burack, Chair
Site Evaluation Committee
NH DES
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Mr. Burack:

This letter is in reference to the wind generation operation proposed for the Phillips Brook area located primarily in the town of Dummer.

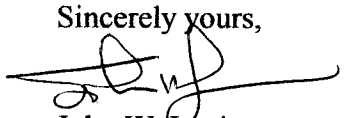
I'd like to preface my comments by stating that I am not opposed to wind power generation per se, but I am opposed to the selection of environmentally sensitive sites to be the first places that an operation of this magnitude uses as a starting point.

I am also very concerned that the long-term benefit to the local populace and economy will be minimal when compared to the benefits from other sources of renewable energy such as the use of biomass (low quality wood products). It takes relatively few people to service the units once the construction phase is over and probably none of the generated power will feed local uses. Additionally, there are higher environmental costs associated with this proposal than with the use of biomass since responsible forest management would be involved in the production of biomass and sensitive sites like mountain tops would be avoided. I would refer you to a publication entitled "Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire". This publication, available from the NH Division of Forests and Lands, sets forth the parameters for responsible forest management.

I have taken the liberty of attaching a letter I wrote to the editor of the Colebrook News and Sentinal back in August of 2008 which outlines my concerns in more detail.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Sincerely yours,



John W. Lanier
PO Box 253
Colebrook, NH 03576

August 22, 2008

Editor, Colebrook News and Sentinal
Colebrook, NH

Dear Editor:

I don't very often write letters to the editor but, since the price of fuel and alternative energy sources are hot topics these days and I am feeling the pinch along with everyone else, I have been following the wind-power discussions with great interest. I am a firm believer in the wise use and development of alternative energy sources. I am also very concerned about promises of quick fixes at the long-term expense of our economy here, which is currently based, in large part, on wood products, natural resource quality and tourism that is related to natural resources.

The leaders in Coos County and in the State of N.H, have some choices to consider and difficult decisions to make when considering alternative energy proposals. I would urge them to weigh all the long-term consequences carefully before jumping on the quick fix bandwagon. In my view the current proposal to put wind generators on the ridges and mountaintops of Coos County is a quick fix proposal with serious long-term economic and environmental consequences. Biomass (consisting of low quality forest products) harvested by experienced woods workers using good forest management practices can be used to generate consistent sources of electricity and, at least to me, would provide jobs in the woods for a long time into the future for woods workers who are currently wondering what their future is going to be.

Here are some comparisons that I think need to be discussed before final decisions are made:

1. Reliability – wind power is not. Think about a hot muggy July night when every one who has a fan or an air conditioner is using it and the wind turbines are not turning. The power has to come from somewhere. A continual flow of wood to a biomass generating plant can keep on producing power around the clock no matter what the weather.
2. Tourism – The State of NH and Coos County take tourism very seriously. Considerable effort is made and dollars spent to promote the quality of natural resources, scenery and backcountry values here. How does the placement of wind towers on ridges and hilltops, along with the roads to access them and the clearings they need to sit in, fit in with natural resource or environmental quality? For instance, there has been considerable effort made in the past by the NH Fish and Game Department and the landowners of higher elevation forest to develop a memorandum of agreement to protect these areas through careful management because of their high wildlife values and ecological sensitivity. The Coos County Master Plan recognizes the sensitivity of these areas also. Wind towers, almost everywhere they have been put into operation, have been shown to be deadly to

large numbers of migrating birds. The propellers and all night lights make no distinction between common species and those that are rare or endangered. All are at risk as they pass by on their annual migrations. There are numerous other environmental concerns as well, such as erosion, habitat loss, noise and light pollution etc.

3. Economics – I have no economic training but, from a long-term aspect, I cannot understand how a short term construction job, the one or two years it would take to place the wind turbines, coupled with a relatively few maintenance workers to care for the towers, can compare with the dollars generated by the continuous work of wood production for generating plants. The net result of harvesting low quality wood for the generating plants, using good management practices, is a healthier forest with more valuable trees that can be harvested for quality saw logs that can always be marketed. There are beneficial aspects for wildlife habitat as well. Thus there are long-term opportunities for employment and improvements to or maintenance of environmental quality that wind turbines cannot provide. Biomass seems to be the economic winner here.

Obviously there are many facets to any decision making process and they all should be considered. There seems to be a chance here to make decisions that will be of general benefit to many folks in Coos County (biomass) as opposed to limited economic benefits, to a relative few, and adverse environmental consequences (wind power).

Thank you for your attention,

John W. Lanier
Columbia, NH

What You Need To Know About Wind Power in Coos County

- **Wind power is not reliable**

  The wind doesn't blow all the time. And when the wind does blow, turbines have a narrow window where electricity can be produced. Too little wind the blades don't turn, too much, the blades have to be turned out of direct wind currents or are shut down all together. Furthermore, the wind doesn't blow when electricity demand is highest, hot humid summer days and in the dead of winter when daylight is limited. As a result, the efficiency of a turbine is less than 40%. So on average, the proposed Wind Park will only produce less than half of its rated capacity. Which has eaten up the full 100 Mw of capacity left in Coos County.

- **Wind power will not reduce our reliance on fossil fuels**

  Because wind is an intermittent, uncontrollable and a very unpredictable source of energy it cannot replace or reduce the amount of existing or new energy facilities that are needed to produce more reliable and consistent energy.

- **Wind power has negative impacts on water quality**

  Major road and turbine pad construction will greatly alter the existing hydrology and drainage of two major watersheds, the Connecticut and Androscoggin River Basins. Blasting, graveling and stripping the tops of our mountains to erect wind turbines will affect every stream and therefore river that begins from the very soils that are being removed and impacted. Our high elevation forests are the filters, and storage system for the streams and rivers found below.

- **Wind power produces noise, light and visual pollution**

  The proposed wind development has been sighted away from permanent residences, but the potential impact of the noise is completely unknown for our resident wildlife. If people find the noise intolerable impacts on wildlife will be significant.

- **Wind power will not create long term, sustainable jobs for the local economy**

  The proposed development will create at the maximum 6 long-term jobs for Coos County. Alternative projects such as biomass have a more potential in supporting and creating more jobs in Coos County. A biomass facility would create multiple jobs to run the plant but also support the long standing forest products based economy.

- **Wind power is partially paid for by the consumer, not the developer**

  As a renewable energy source your tax dollars are going toward the construction of this facility. The proposed wind park development will cost 275 million and at maximum output produce 99 Mw of electricity. How much of that money is going to come back to the residents of Coos County, oppose to the private landowner and the developer? It isn't even guaranteed that the electricity produced on our mountain tops will stay in New Hampshire let alone Coos County. Would it make more sense to support smaller scale, local projects, that will infuse the local economy as well as produce energy that is more likely to stay in Coos County?

- **Wind power jeopardizes open public access and recreation**

  Never before has a wind park development been sighted at such high elevations in the Northeast. At existing wind parks in the Northeast, ice shear is a hazard to anyone or anything going near a turbine in the fall, winter and spring. The more turbines placed on our mountain tops results in more places where people can no longer hike, hunt, wildlife watch or just enjoy the remote areas we still have in Coos County.

- **Wind power has negative impacts wildlife and the environment**

  Our mountain tops in the core of Coos County are some of the last large unfragmented chunks of forestland we have. The White Mountains are blanketed with hiking trails while the mountain tops of Coos County for the most part are road and trail free. The proposed wind park development threatens hundreds of acres of very valuable wildlife habitat, and will forever fragment these areas with roads and turbine pads.